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GLOSSARY

BMPs (Best Management Practices) – a state-of-the art method for achieving a desired benefit such as improved water quality or infiltration

Beneficial Uses – Uses of water identified in state and regional water quality control plans that must be achieved and maintained. Designated uses, together with water quality objectives, form water quality standards as mandated under the California Water Code and the federal Clean Water Act

Channelization – Human engineering of river channels to enlarge, straighten, embank, or protect existing channels, create new channels, or protect adjacent structures.

Creation (wetland, etc.) – The construction of a wetland in an area that was not a wetland in the recent past and that is isolated from existing wetlands.

Daylight – The excavation and restoration of a stream channel from an underground culvert, covering, or pipe – in other words, opening it up to the daylight.

Enhancement (wetland, etc.) – Improving the structure or function(s) of an existing wetland

Floodplain – The lands next to rivers and streams that flood naturally during large storm events. The flood plain's function is to store sediment and flood flows.

Groundwater – The water that collects and is stored underground into basins defined by the underlying geology.

Groundwater Recharge – Surface water that filters into the ground and reaches underground reservoirs, providing replenishment and/or increased storage for groundwater basins.

Habitat- The living and non-living environment where a population (e.g., human, animal, plant, microorganism) lives. Habitat includes all things an organism needs to survive – food, water, space, and protection from predators.

Impaired Water Body – Waters that fail to meet applicable water quality standards or to protect designated uses (such as fishing or swimming).

Impervious Surface – Hard surfaces within a watershed including rooftops, parking lots, streets, sidewalks, and driveways that do not allow rainfall to infiltrate underlying soils

Infiltration – The process by which water moves downward through the earth's surface, replenishing soil moisture and groundwater basins.

Mitigation (wetland, etc) – the creation, restoration, enhancement, or preservation of a wetland designed to offset permitted losses of wetland functions in response to special conditions of a permit

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) – The Environmental Protection System’s permitting system to control and monitor all point sources of pollution.

Native Species – An animal or plant that originated in a particular place or region.

Non-Native (or Invasive, Exotic) Species – Any animal or plant that is not native to a particular ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

Non-Point Source Pollution – Pollution that does not come from a single point of origin but from many diffuse sources and land use types; the pollutants are generally carried off the land by stormwater runoff.

Point Source Pollution – Water pollution that can be traced to a single point or a discrete source, such as water discharge pipe.

Preservation – The protection of an existing and well-functioning wetland from prospective future threats.

Restoration – the return of a wetland or other ecological system from a disturbed or altered condition by human activity to a previously existing condition.

Riparian – The riverside or riverine environment that lies next to a stream channel. There is no specific measured distance constituting the riparian area; instead it refers to the extent of habitat on either side of a river or stream that is clearly dependent on that river or stream

Sediments – Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain that collects in reservoirs, rivers, and harbors.

Site Design BMPs – site planning and design techniques that reduce runoff volumes and rates by seeking to improve or minimize the project footprint.

Source Control BMPs – operational practices that stop or reduce potential pollutants at the source or structural devices that prevent pollutants from contacting stormwater

Spreading Grounds – A land area specifically designed to be flooded so that the water will percolate or soak into the ground, recharging the groundwater.

Storm Water Runoff – Rain that falls off the surface of the land without entering the soil.

Subwatershed – A component drainage area within a larger, local watershed; typically defined as the land draining to a point where two second-order streams combine to

form a third-order stream. A subwatershed may be a few square miles in area, and are the key geographic unit for urban stream classification and watershed-based zoning.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) – The maximum amount of pollutants that can be received by a water body and still meet its water quality objectives.

Treatment Control BMPs – Refers to any engineered systems, such as detention basins and grass swales, designed, and constructed to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff.

Upland – An area that is not an aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitat. An area that does not have the hydrologic regime necessary to support hydrophytic vegetation.

Vector - any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, other insects, ticks, mites, and rats, but not including any domesticated animal.

Watershed – The land area that drains into a single body of water such as a stream, river, lake, or wetland. Large watersheds may be composed of several smaller nested watersheds.

Water Quality Standards –A law or regulation that consists of the beneficial use or uses of a waterbody, the numeric and narrative water quality criteria that are necessary to protect the use or uses of that particular water body, and an anti-degradation statement

Wetlands – An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances supporting, vegetation adapted for life under those conditions. Swamps, bogs, fens, and marshes are examples of wetlands.

Primary Sources for Definitions

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